

demersal eggs—that is, 75 per cent. pelagic and 12·5 per cent. viviparous and demersal each. These proportions are not markedly different from those found in the common shore-fishes of South Africa, where there are many viviparous blennies (*Clinus*), and probably about as many fish with demersal eggs (*Gobius*, *Blennius*, *Chorisochismus*, &c.).

We seem, therefore, justified in concluding that the mode of reproduction of deep-sea fish will, on further investigation, probably prove to be not much different from that of those of the shallower waters—in the South-African seas, at least.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

A cluster of fish-eggs, attached to an Alcyonarian, trawled from a depth of 226 fathoms. Photograph, $1\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.

XVII.—*Two new Muridæ discovered in Paraguay by the Marquis de Wavrin.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

THE British Museum has received a very acceptable donation of a number of small mammals obtained in the Northern Chaco of Paraguay by the Marquis de Wavrin, who is making an important exploring expedition into South America. Among these there occur examples of the two following new species of Muridæ.

Oryzomys wavrini, sp. n.

A middle-sized, coarse-haired, buffy-brown species, with proportionately short tail.

Size intermediate between that of the large *O. angouya* and the small *O. flavescens*. Fur long and coarse, hairs of back about 13–14 mm. in length. General colour above browner and less buffy than in most species, a heavily lined “buffy-brown,” clearer buffy on the flanks. Under surface dull whitish with a slight buffy tinge, the hairs slaty at base. Proectote of ear blackish, metentote buffy brown like the head. Hairs of hands and feet glossy white, the feet with fairly well defined lateral fringes. Tail only about as long as the head and body, well haired, brown above, whitish on sides and below.

Skull slender, not heavily ridged. Interorbital space narrow, its edges sharply square, but scarcely ridged, and

not overhanging the orbits. Zygomatic plate strongly concave in front. Palatal foramina of about uniform breadth, reaching back to the level of the first lamina of m^1 .

Incisors rather opisthodont, the incisive index about 61° . Molars of normal size and shape, but remarkable for the partial or complete suppression of the cross-crochet between the outer cusps, this crochet being usually considered as characteristic of all the *Oryzomys* series of genera.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 106 mm.; tail 106; hind foot 25; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 29; condylo-incisive length 26.6; zygomatic breadth 15.5; nasals 11.5; interorbital breadth 3.8; zygomatic plate 3.2; palatilar length 13; palatine foramina 6.1; upper molar series 4.8.

A second specimen is rather larger—head and body 120 mm., skull 30.3.

Hab. Northern Chaco of Paraguay. Type from Jesematahila, west of Concepcion. Alt. 100 m. A second specimen from Mision.

Type. Young adult male. B.M. no. 20. 12. 18. 16. Original number 22. Collected 15th August, 1920.

This very distinct swamp-rat is readily distinguishable by its intermediate size, its comparatively short tail, most *Oryzomys* having this organ longer than the head and body, its unridged supraorbital edges, concave zygomatic plate, and the obsolescence of the cross-crotchets in the molars. Important as the last character usually is, the animal is so essentially an *Oryzomys* in all other respects that I do not think there is any doubt that its proper place is in that genus. Possibly even the reduction of the crotchets is a mere abnormality.

I have much pleasure in naming the species after its discoverer, the Marquis de Wavrin, who is carrying out an important exploration in South America, and has presented to the British Museum the small mammals he obtained in Paraguay.

Akodon toba, sp. n.

A large olivaceous species, with whitish belly.

Size as in some of the largest members of the genus. Fur soft and fine, hairs of back about 9 mm. in length. General colour above finely ticked olivaceous grey, almost exactly as in *A. arviculoides montensis* of Paraguay, but rather less suffused with buffy, so that the general effect is

greyer. On the under surface, however, there is no resemblance to the Paraguay animal, the hairs being broadly washed with white, though they are, as usual, slaty at base. So really white-washed a belly is very unusual in the genus. Chin without any marked white patch. Hands and feet greyish white. Tail blackish above and all round at the end, the greater part below dull white.

Skull most like that of *A. simulator* and its allies. Large, evenly bowed; the interorbital region broad, with sharply angular edges. Palatal foramina well open, extending back to the level of the hinder edge of the first lamina of m^1 . Incisors of normal set. Molars as usual.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 105 mm.; tail 78; hind foot 24; ear 20.

Skull: greatest length 29; zygomatic breadth 15; nasals 10; interorbital breadth 5; height of crown from alveolus of m^3 8.2; palatilar length 12; palatal foramina 7; upper molar series 4.7.

Hab. Jesematathla, Northern Chaco. Alt. 100 m.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 20. 12. 18. 20. Original number 34. Collected 18th August, 1920.

This *Akodon* of the Paraguayan Chaco is above so like *A. a. montensis* of the country east of the River Paraguay as to be almost indistinguishable, but below it is at once separable by its broadly white-washed belly—a very unusual character in *Akodon*. Its skull is, on the whole, most like that of *A. simulator* and its allies of North Argentina west of the Chaco.

Considering how small the number of Chaco mammals is, the Marquis de Wavrin has done very well in discovering two new ones.

XVIII.—*A new Mountain Vizcacha (Lagidium) from N.W. Patagonia.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

THE British Museum has received a number of mammals from Pilcañeu and other places in N.W. Patagonia collected by Mr. H. E. Box. As they were collected at very much the same places as those obtained by Sr. E. Budin in 1918, and described by me in a previous paper*, the majority of them are known to science, but among them are several

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) iii. p. 199 (1919).